

MEMORANDUM

To: Vermont Children's Performance Indicator Project Advisory Group

From: John Pandiani
Brad James

Date: July 24, 1997

Re: Special Education Students by Community Mental Health Service Area

Attached is the sixth in a series of reports on access to children's mental health services in Vermont. This report shows total numbers of special education students as a percent of all students and per 1,000 children for Vermont's ten community mental health service areas.

Overall, there was little variation between the ten service areas in the number of special education students as a percent of all students. When numbers of special education students were compared across the services areas as rates per 1,000 children, substantial variation appeared.

We look forward to your comments on the quality of the data, the appropriateness of the analysis, and the effectiveness of the data presentation as well as your interpretation of the results.

Access to Mental Health Services Numbers of Special Education Students

QUESTION: Do the numbers of students receiving special education services vary substantially among Vermont's ten community mental health service areas as a percent of all students or per 1,000 children?

DATA: Information on enrollment figures was obtained from the *1997 Vermont School Reports*, published on the Internet by the Vermont Department of Education and the Center for Rural Studies at the University of Vermont (<http://crs.uvm.edu/schlrrpt>).

The number of children and adolescents (less than twenty-two years of age) in each of Vermont's ten service areas was obtained from population estimates published by the Vermont Department of Health and the Center for Rural Studies.

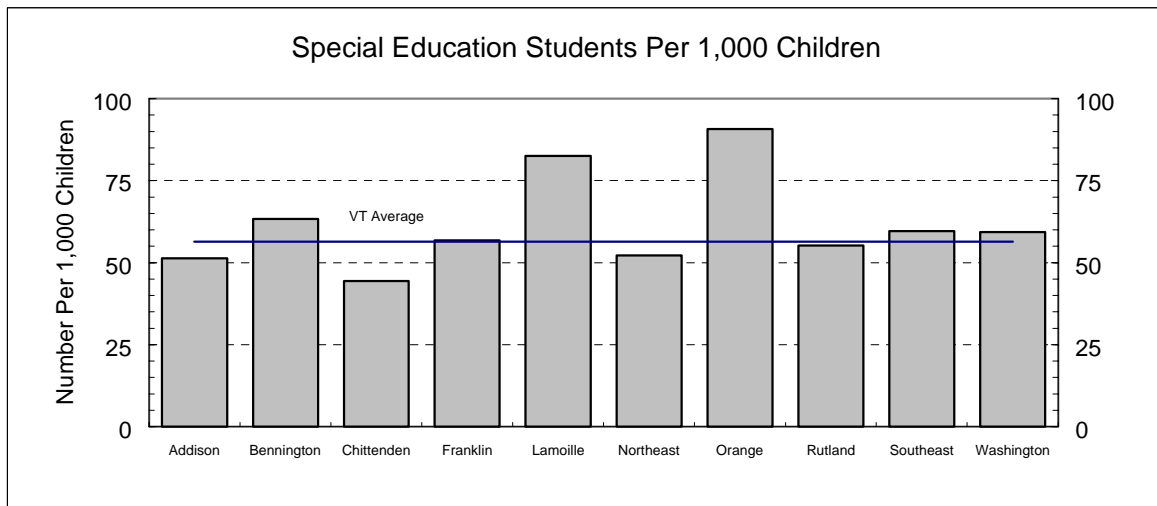
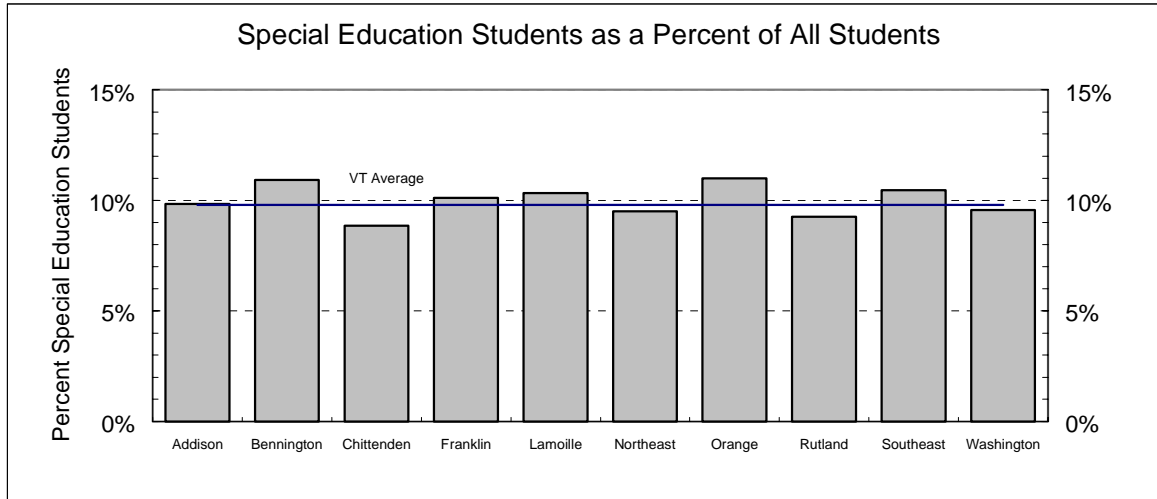
ANALYSIS: Total student and special education student enrollment figures were calculated for the state as a whole and for each community mental health service area as well as the number of special education students as a percent of all students and per 1,000 children. Special education students as a percent of all students was derived by dividing the number of special education students for all schools by the total number of students in each service area. Special education rates per 1,000 children were derived by dividing the number of special education students for all schools in each service area by the number of children and adolescents residing in each area.

RESULTS: The number of special education students as a percent of all students showed little variation between the ten community mental health service areas. All but two service areas (Orange and Bennington) were within $\pm 1\%$ of the statewide average (9.8%). The Orange and Bennington service areas had the highest percent of special education (11.0% and 10.5%, respectively). The Chittenden service area had the lowest number of special education students as a percent of all students (8.8%).

Substantial variation in the number of special education students per 1,000 children was exhibited between the ten service areas with the Orange and Lamoille service areas having the largest rates (91 and 83 per 1,000 children, respectively). The Chittenden service area had the lowest rate of special education children (44 per 1,000 children) followed by the Addison and Northeast service areas (51 and 52 per 1,000 children, respectively).

NEXT QUESTIONS: How do these numbers of special education students compare to those in other states? Have special education numbers (both total and per 1,000 children) changed over time? Is this variation related to regional economic differences? How do these numbers correlate to those reported for Children's Services Programs (July 10, 1997) and other community mental health center programs (July 17, 1997) as reported previously? How many special education students are served in these programs?

**SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS AS A PERCENT OF ALL STUDENTS AND PER CAPITA BY
COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE AREAS IN VERMONT: 1995-96 SCHOOL YEAR**



Region/Provider	Children's Population	Total Student Population	Special Education Students		
			Total	% of Total Students	Per 1,000 Children
Addison - CSAC	11,078	5,778	569	9.8%	51
Bennington - UCS	10,734	6,222	680	10.9%	63
Chittenden - HCHS	43,730	21,931	1,940	8.8%	44
Franklin - FGI	16,016	9,003	910	10.1%	57
Lamoille - LCMHS	6,588	5,267	544	10.3%	83
Northeast - NEK	18,906	10,377	986	9.5%	52
Orange - CMC	8,598	7,095	780	11.0%	91
Rutland - RACS	17,877	10,679	988	9.3%	55
Southeast - HCRSSV	27,572	15,708	1,644	10.5%	60
Washington - WCMHS	16,429	10,194	975	9.6%	59
Vermont	177,528	102,254	10,016	9.8%	56

Enrollment figures were obtained from the 1997 Vermont School Reports database (<http://crs.uvm.edu/schlrpt>) and reflect data for the 1995-96 school year. Population figures are projections for 1995 based on the latest estimates published by the Vermont Department of Health and the Center for Rural Studies at the University of Vermont. 'Children's Population' includes people less than 22 years of age.